

## Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /132 W

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P 052100Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1450

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5768

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFO, HO, ES, NU, GT

SUBJECT: HONDURAS-SALVADOR DISPUTE

1. I CALLED ON FONMIN ARENALES THIS MORNING AT HIS REQUEST SO HE COULD GIVE ME RUNDOWN ON RECENT CONTACTS WITH SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN REPRESENTATIVES. ARENALES SAID THAT EARLY LAST WEEK TWO-MAN SALVADORAN DELEGATION CALLED ON PRESIDENT ARANA TO EXPLAIN EL SALVADOR'S MOTIVES IN DENOUNCING PACT OF BOGOTA, AND ARANA HAD SENT THE DELEGATION TO ARENALES, INSTRUCTING HIM TO DISCUSS WITH AND RECOMMEND TO THE SALVADORANS POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS TOWARDS SOLUTION OF DISPUTE, ARENALES SAID HE TOLD SALVADORANS THAT "SINCE MEXICAN TALKS NOW DEAD" HE THOUGHT SALVADOR AND HONDURAS SHOULD PUBLICLY REQUEST ARANA TO MEDIATE DISPUTE. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE MEET WITH BORGONOVO AND BATRES AND COME UP WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ADDRESSED TO SOLVING THE VARIOUS INDIVIDUAL ISSUES (TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HOW EACH RECOMMENDATION COULD BE "SOLD" TO PUBLIC OPINION IN EACH COUNTRY), AND THAT THE AGREED-UPON "RECOMMENDATIONS" THEN BE GIVEN TO ARANA WHO, AS MEDIATOR, WOULD PRESENT THEM TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. ARENALES SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT MOST OF THE "RECOMMENDATIONS" THAT WOULD BE WORKED OUT COULD BE ACCEPTED

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BY BOTH SIDES. AND THAT THOSE THAT WERE NOT ACCEPTED (SUCH AS

FINAL DEMARCATION OF ALL SEGMENTS OF BORDER) COULD BE SLATED FOR LATER DISCUSSION. ARENALES SAID HE WAS TAKING THIS APPROACH BECAUSE HE NOW FELT THAT NO OVERALL PACKAGE COVERING ALL ASPECTS OF DISPUTE COULD BE ARRIVED AT IN NEAR FUTURE, AND IF THOSE MEASURES WHICH COULD BE AGREED UPON COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT SOON THERE WOULD BE PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS AND LESSENING OF TENSION WHICH SHOULD MAKE STICKIER POINTS EASIER TO HANDLE IN FUTURE. ARENALES SAID SALVADORAN DELEGATES TENTATIVELY AGREED WITH HIS PLAN AND SAID THEY WOULD PRESENT IDEA TO PRESIDENT MOLINA. HOWEVER, SALVADORANS SAID THEY WOULD LIKE BOTH ARANA AND GENERAL SOMOZA TO SERVE AS "MEDIATORS."

ARENALES SAID HE TOLD THEM THIS WOULD BE FINE WITH HIM.

2. ARENALES SAID THAT HONDURAN FONMIN BATRES (AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE) MADE UNPUBLICIZED VISIT HERE LAST THURSDAY AND AT THAT MEETING ARENALES OUTLINED TO HIM SUGGESTION HE HAD MADE TO SALVADORAN DELEGATION. ARENALES SAID THAT BATRES THOUGHT PLAN MIGHT BE WORKABLE AND SAID HE WOULD PRESENT IT TO CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ. ARENALES IS NOW AWAITING REPLIES FROM BOTH COUNTRIES.

3. ARENALES SAID GENERAL SOMOZA IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING ARRANGE MEETING WITH PRESIDENTS ARANA, MOLINA AND LOPEZ FOR NEAR FUTURE. ARENALES THOUGHT SUCH MEETING COULD BE HELPFUL BUT BELIEVED THREE FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD MEET AT SAME TIME AS PRESIDENTS AND MOVE AHEAD WITH HIS PLAN.

4. ARENALES SAID THAT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH BATRES AND THE SALVADORANS HE HAD STRESSED NEED FOR BOTH SIDES AVOID TAKING ACTIONS OR MAKING STATEMENTS THAT WOULD INFLAME PUBLIC OPINION, AS SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD SET PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOLUTION BACK BY YEARS.  
DREYFUSS

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